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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 24 August 1954

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1. This morning I handed Congressman Hillings, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Central America of the House Committee on Communist Aggression, the following documents:

- a. "Documents Obtained In a Brief, Preliminary Sampling of the Documentary Evidence of Communist Infiltration and Influence in Guatemala";
- b. "Nature and Extent of Communist Infiltration and Control of the Guatemalan Government and Governmental Agencies";
- c. "Strength and Significance of the Castillo Armas 'Invasion' of Guatemala";
- d. "Guatemalan Subversive Actions Against Neighboring States";
- e. "The Advance of International Communism in Guatemala, February 1954";
- f. State Department White Paper on Guatemala;
- g. News Highlights, Guatemalan Issues No. 1, 2, 3.

Congressman Hillings stated that Congressman Dodd (D., Conn.) would accompany him, and that he was still trying to have Congressman Bentley (R., Mich.) as the third member. If the latter is not available, Hillings would prefer just to take Dodd and ask Kersten to serve as the third member but not make the trip. Hillings stated that Patrick McMahon, a newspaper man, might precede the Committee to Guatemala as a consultant, but that McMahon is not his choice but would be forced upon him by Chairman Kersten. He also may take Committee Counsel McTigue, of whom he does not have a very high opinion, or Ed O'Connor of the Committee staff. Hillings' own choice would be his Administrative Assistant, William Price, but the latter's services are probably being requisitioned by the Vice President.

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I informed Mr. Hillings that we could not guarantee a great flow of documents as many of them may have been destroyed by the Arbenz government, but explained that the Documents Committee working there under CIA chairmanship would be helpful to him. I cautioned, however, that these documents were Guatemalan documents and should not be treated as U.S. documents. I also informed him that journalists had access to a good deal of this material. I pointed out that CIA would designate a man to contact Hillings who would be of assistance to him and that I would supply the name shortly. Hillings agreed that there would be no references to CIA by him or his Subcommittee.

Hillings is scheduled to meet with Assistant Secretary of State Holland today and discuss the possibilities of going to other countries, both in Central America and in South America. He particularly has Chile, Brazil and the Argentine in mind. [REDACTED]

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Congressman pointed out that the CIA man always appeared to be the most knowledgeable person in the field of his interests.

Hillings stated that he had met last night with the Guatemalan Ambassador to Washington, who had pledged the full cooperation of his government. He stated that the Guatemalan Ambassador was formerly the Chief of Intelligence in Guatemala and that he had indicated that documents and atrocities would be called to the Subcommittee's attention. The Ambassador also indicated that the Attorney General of Guatemala was making a collection of complaints from Guatemalan citizens on violations of civil liberties and the like under the Arbenz regime and that these would be made available to the Subcommittee.

The possibility of a briefing for Hillings prior to going to Guatemala was discussed, and I will talk to him further as to the type of information he desires to see whether we can properly do such a briefing. [REDACTED]

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Hillings also added that if it were necessary for him to leave from

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2. A representative of the German Embassy has approached the House Civil Service Committee to secure copies of the law and the Committee report on the so-called "Alger Hiss bill" which denies pensions to Federal employees convicted of certain offenses. The German Government wishes to consider similar legislation in view of the defection of Dr. John who is entitled to a federal annuity in Germany.

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3. I have handed to Mr. Mandel, Director of Research of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, the material prepared by EE Division on [redacted] who is to be surfaced through that Subcommittee. Mr. Mandel has talked with Senator Jenner, who has headed for Canada and indicated that he would not return to Washington until 20 September. He is suffering from a chest congestion which he wishes to clear up, and stated that if earlier hearings were needed, Senator Eastland (D., Miss.) or Johnston (D., S.Car.) would be available. It would appear that this matter should be discussed further with Mr. Carpenter upon his return on 26 August, as he may be able to explain the situation to Senator Jenner more clearly. While it is conceded that DD/P would like hearings earlier than 20 September, the following facts should be considered:

- a. That the Jenner Committee is the right Committee for these hearings;
- b. That it will still take at least a week or ten days to prepare this case properly;
- c. That if the McCarthy "censure" hearings start on 30 August, as planned, they will take away, at least in their early stages, the same correspondents who would normally cover the Jenner hearings.

It is my opinion that no firm procedures should be agreed on until we have met further with Carpenter.